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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY China

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INFO.

SUBJECT Political Information: Conscription Corruption,
Canton

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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1. According to WU Chen-huan (吳振環), Municipal Government Section Chief in charge of conscription in Canton, 720 men have been drafted to date under the new conscription system. It has been previously reported that Canton would draft during 1946 only 1,394 men from those in the eligible age group, numbering 200,000 to 250,000.
2. In addition to the original twenty-four conscription areas previously listed for Canton, ten more have been designated in Nanhai (南海) and Panyu (番禺) helen (Canton is in the latter helen).
3. General confusion still seems to characterize the conscription program in Canton. This is partly because the National Ministry of Defense has not yet given Canton authorities specific orders concerning quotas, training, equipment, and supplies.
4. Corruption continues to occur all along the line of conscription procedures. Conscription area heads are in a position to profit financially from the general reluctance of those eligible to be drafted. The "head" receives "contributions" from households and shops having eligible men in his area with which he buys substitutes to represent the area as draftees. Households have been asked to pay sums ranging from CMC \$3,000 to \$40,000, while the fee for shops ranges from CMC \$10,000 to \$100,000.
5. Many of the "bought" substitutes cannot meet the physical requirements. At this point Army physicians come in for their share of money making, being paid by conscription area heads to pass unqualified men.
6. Applications for exemption or deferment provide another opportunity for corruption. Each application, before it can be considered by the final authorities, must have the signed approval of the conscription area head, which usually costs the applicant something. Applications for exemption and deferment were ordered closed as of 25 December 1946, but are still being accepted by the "heads", provided monetary conditions are fulfilled.
7. "Big business" eligibles have petitioned Mayor AUXANG Chu for exemption, pleading that their absence would mean the ruin of their businesses. They are prepared to pay substantial sums for their exemption.

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8. In mid-December names were drawn by lot in one area. The names thus drawn for conscription were not disclosed. Because of this the conscription area head was in a position to extort a substantial amount from wealthy eligibles anxious to keep their names off the list.
9. Because of this general confusion and corruption it is likely that the majority of the 720 men drafted to date are not bona fide draftees, but "bought" substitutes, probably beggars and professional soldiers.
10. SU Chen-huan, conscription head, is believed by many to be enriching himself by working hand in hand with Canton's conscription area heads.

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